

**PROPOSED USE OF THE PLENARY POWERS TO VALIDATE THE
GENERIC NAME "RHINOPTERASPIS" JAEKEL, 1919, BY
SUPPRESSING THE NAME "ARCHAEOTEUTHIS" ROEMER,
1855 (CLASS OSTRACODERMI)**

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The object of the present application is to seek the assistance of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature for preserving the well-established generic name *Rhinopteraspis* Jaekel, 1919, by the use of its Plenary Powers for suppressing its senior objective synonym *Archaeoteuthis* Roemer, 1855, a name which has been completely overlooked, not having been used since the time when it was first published. The facts of this case are summarised in the following paragraphs.

2. In 1855 (*Palaeontographica* 4 : 72) Roemer (F.) described a fossil from the Lower Devonian of the Eifel as the guard of a species of cuttlefish, for which also he established a new genus. He named this species *Palaeoteuthis dunensis*. In the same year, finding that the generic name *Palaeoteuthis* Roemer, 1855, was invalid, being a junior homonym of the name *Palaeoteuthis* d'Orbigny, [1850] (*Prodr. Paléont.* 1 : 327) Roemer published the substitute name *Archaeoteuthis* (1855, in Bronn, *Lethaea geogn.* (3rd ed.) 1 : 520). However, three years later T. H. Huxley pointed out (1861, *Quart. J. geol. Soc. Lond.* 17 : 163) that the specimen described by Roemer was not a cephalopod guard, as Roemer had supposed, but was the ventral plate of a pteraspid "fish" (Ostracoderm) and referred it to the genus *Pteraspis* Kner, 1847, itself, since it showed, in his opinion, no characters of generic value to differentiate it from *Pteraspis*. (We may here note that the specimen is imperfect and incidentally that in the original paper it was figured upside down, and further that the ventral plates (or discs) do not show generic characters in most pteraspids.) Since the publication of Roemer's papers nearly one hundred years ago, the name *Archaeoteuthis* has not been used by any author. Up to 1919, the type species (*P. dunensis*) was referred either to *Pteraspis* or to its junior synonym *Scaphaspis* Lankester, 1865.

3. In 1919 O. Jaekel (*Sitzber. Ges. Naturf. Freunde Berlin* 1919 : 74) made *Palaeoteuthis dunensis* Roemer the type species of a new genus, to which he gave the name *Rhinopteraspis* on the ground of the characteristic dorsal armour found associated with ventral plates referable to the foregoing species. It has

since been shown by Brotzen (1936, *Ark. Zool.* 28A (No. 22) : 13) and by White (1938, *Quart. J. geol. Soc. Lond.* 94 : 85) that a number of forms share the outstanding characters of Jaekel's genus. These forms are of stratigraphical significance, and in consequence the name *Rhinopteraspis* has come increasingly into use.

4. In these circumstances it is recommended that the name *Rhinopteraspis* Jaekel, 1919, should be validated by the suppression of the name *Archaeoteuthis* Roemer, 1855, under the Plenary Powers, a name which has not been used since its original publication, is embarrassingly inappropriate, and, when first published, was accompanied by no generic characters relevant to the group to which it belongs. The International Commission is accordingly asked :—

- (1) to use its Plenary Powers for the purpose of suppressing the generic name *Archaeoteuthis* Roemer, 1855, for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy ;
- (2) to place the under-mentioned generic names on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* :—*Rhinopteraspis* Jaekel, 1919 (gender : feminine) (type species, by original designation : *Palaeoteuthis dunensis* Roemer, 1855) ;
- (3) to place the under-mentioned specific name on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* :—*dunensis* Roemer, 1855, as published in the combination *Palaeoteuthis dunensis* (specific name of type species of *Rhinopteraspis* Jaekel, 1919) ;
- (4) to place the under-mentioned generic names on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology* :—
 - (a) *Palaeoteuthis* Roemer, 1855 (a junior homonym of *Palaeoteuthis* d'Orbigny, [1850]) ;
 - (b) *Archaeoteuthis* Roemer, 1855 (as suppressed under the Plenary Powers under (1) above).

5. The genus *Rhinopteraspis* Jaekel is not the type genus of a taxon belonging to any family-group and accordingly no question arises of placing any such name on the *Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology*.